

### **Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (*amended herein above*)    A film preparation ~~An apparatus for preparing films~~  
~~suitable for encapsulation from a solid film-forming material~~ comprising:

- a)     at least one casting drum;
- b)     means for melting solid ~~said~~ film-forming material on demand;
- c)     pump means; and
- d)     an extrusion device;

wherein said apparatus prepares encapsulation films from a solid film-forming material.

Claim 2 (*original*)     An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said film-forming material has an aqueous component.

Claim 3 (*original*)     An apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said film-forming material comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of starch, gelatin, carrageenans, gums and synthetic materials.

Claim 4 (*original*)     An apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said film-forming material comprises iota-carrageenan and modified starch; water; a plasticizer; and a buffer.

Claim 5 (*original*)     An apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said film-forming material comprises gelatin, water and plasticizers.

Claim 6 (*amended herein above*)    An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said means for melting solid ~~said~~ film-forming material comprises a melt grid.

Claim 7 (*original*)     An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said melt grid is above

the solid film-forming material.

Claim 8 (*original*) An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said melt grid is below said solid film-forming material.

Claim 9 (*original*) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said pump means is a positive displacement pump.

Claim 10 (*original*) An apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said positive displacement pump is selected from the group consisting of gear pumps, lobe pumps, sine pumps, worm pumps, and archimedes screws.

Claim 11 (*amended herein above*) An apparatus according to claim 1 additionally comprising a reservoir means disposed between said means to melt said film-forming material ~~polymer~~ and said extrusion device.

Claim 12 (*original*) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said extrusion device comprises a chamber and an extrusion slot.

Claim 13 (*original*) An apparatus according to claim 12 wherein said extrusion device is a coat hanger die.

Claim 14 (*amended herein above*) An apparatus according to claim 11 ~~4~~ additionally comprising a manifold disposed between said reservoir means and said extrusion device.

Claim 15 (*amended herein above*) An apparatus for applying a polymer to a substrate comprising:

- a) means to melt a solid ~~said~~ polymer on demand;
- b) pump means to transport the molten polymer to an extrusion device;
- c) reservoir means disposed between ~~to dispose between~~ said means to melt said solid polymer and said extrusion device; and
- d) at least one casting drum.

Claim 16 (*original*) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said extrusion device

comprises a chamber and an extrusion slot.

**Claim 17 (*original*)** The apparatus according to claim 16 wherein said extrusion device is a coat and hanger die.

**Claim 18 (*amended herein above*)** The apparatus according to claim 15 additionally comprising a distribution manifold disposed between said reservoir means and said extrusion device.

**Claim 19 (*canceled by this amendment*).**

**Claim 20 (*canceled by this amendment*).**

**Claim 21 (*canceled by this amendment*).**